

IN MEMORIAM

NORMAN GEISLER

It was with a genuine sense of loss that I learned the news of Norman Geisler's death. He played a pivotal role in my life. I first met Dr. Geisler when he came over to Dekalb from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to speak for Inter-Varsity at Northern Illinois University on the problem of evil. I was impressed by his rational argumentation. Having graduated from Wheaton, I knew that I wanted to attend seminary, but at the same time I didn't feel called to the pastorate, so the M.Div. didn't seem the appropriate degree for me. But I learned that Dr. Geisler was spearheading a new program for an M.A. degree in Philosophy of Religion. This seemed tailor-made for me. I did not have an undergrad degree in philosophy, however, so to get into the program I had to qualify by scoring high enough on the Graduate Record Exam in philosophy. So I studied in my spare time all the next year and scored high enough to be admitted to the Trinity program in the fall of 1973. I spent the next two years under Dr. Geisler's tutelage. That provided the crucial stepping stone for doctoral work in philosophy with John Hick in England. Dr. Geisler was thus the critical link in the chain for me.

I bear his imprint. He gave me a strong appreciation for the history of philosophy, which has served me well. Most importantly, however, he convinced me of the need for a robust natural theology. This emphasis was and continues to be somewhat out of the "norm" (no pun intended) for Christian philosophers, but those of you who know my work will realize how indelibly Norm Geisler stamped me with his mark. I never embraced his Thomism, but I fully embraced his emphasis on the value and cogency of arguments for God's existence. I owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

William Lane Craig

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